

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05270 101449Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 FBO-02 SAM-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 A-01

PER-01 AID-05 /099 W

----- 072020

R 101422Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9055

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5270

KARACHI FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SY

SUBJ: MORE EXPLOSIONS IN DAMASCUS AUGUST 9

REF: DAMASCUS 5190

1. ABU RUMMANEH AREA OF DAMASCUS ROCKED BY AT LEAST TWO
EXPLOSIONS NIGHT OF AUGUST 9. THEY OCCURRED WITHIN FEW
MINUTES OF EACH OTHER, AROUND 2230, AT FOOT OF MALKI
STREET A FEW HUNDRED METERS FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND FOUR
BLOCKS FROM EMBASSY. BLASTS ENTIRELY DESTROYED AUTOMOBILE, LEFT
MIMIBUS PARKED NEXT TO IT A BURNED HULK, AND BLEW HOLE IN ADJACENT
CEMENT WALL SURROUNDING VACANT LOT. EMBOFFS WHO ARRIVED AT SCENE FROM
NEARBY RESIDENCES SHORTLY AFTER SECOND EXPLOSION TOLD BY POLICE
NO ONE KILLED OR INJURED, BUT WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER SOURCES
THERE WERE SEVERAL CASUALTIES. WEST GERMAN MILATT WHO
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05270 101449Z

ARRIVED AT SCENE SHORTLY AFTER BLAST SAW TWO CORPSES

AND BELIEVES THERE WERE FIVE KILLED.

2. EXPLOSIONS MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN OTHER PARTS OF DAMASCUS AS WELL PREVIOUS NIGHT. LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO LIVES NEAR G-2 OFFICE TOLD BY SECURITY PERSONNEL MANNING BLOCKADES AT ACCESS ROAD TO OFFICE THAT THEY HAD ORDERS TO CLOSE ROAD "AFTER FOUR BOMBS EXPLODED IN DAMASCUS LAST NIGHT."

3. EMBOFF OBTAINED CONFIRMATION FROM USUALLY INFORMED LOCAL BUSINESSMAN THAT FORMER DEPPRIMIN HAYDAR'S APARTMENT WAS TARGET OF BOMB ATTACK APPROXIMATELY WEEK AGO (PARA THREE REFTEL). ONE OF THE TWO BOMBS SET WITH DELAYED-ACTION FUSES DESTROYED HAYDAR'S BATHROOM, OTHER ONE OUTSIDE HIS BEDROOM WINDOW FAILED TO EXPLODE. BOTH HAYDAR AND WIFE WERE IN BEDROOM AT THE TIME BUT NEITHER WERE INJURED.

4. COMMENT: EXPLOSIONS FALLING INTO TWO GENERAL PATTERNS -- ATTACKS UPON RANKING MEMBERS OF SARG LEADERSHIP (IZZAWI, HAYDAR, POSSIBLY OTHERS) AND DEVICES TIMED TO EXPLODE AT LATE HOURS IN RELATIVELY UNINHABITED LOCATIONS TO CREATE PUBLIC DISTURBANCES WHICH ONLY INCIDENTALLY RESULT IN INJURIES TO POPULATION. IN THESE CASES, SUSPICIONS OF SARG NATURALLY FALL UPON IRAQUIS AND PALESTINIANS AS THOSE WITH CLEAREST MOTIVES FOR UNDERMINING REGIME'S AUTHORITY. ASSASSINATIONS OF ALAWITES IN HAMA AND HOMS, ON OTHER HAND, USUALLY ATTRIBUTED TO HOME-GROWN TROUBLEMAKERS ANTIPATHETIC TO ALAWITE REGIME, SUCH AS MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND YOUTH OF MUHAMMAD. WHILE WE HAVE NO INFORMATION LINKING IRAQI, PALESTINIAN AND SYRIAN ELEMENTS MENTIONED ABOVE, BOMBINGS HAVE SO FAR PROVEN FORMIDABLE SECURITY THREAT BOTH TO INDIVIDUALS OF THIS REGIME AND TO GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN DAMASCUS. WE UNDERSTAND SARG SECURITY HAS YET TO APPREHEND ANY OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMASCUS BOMBINGS.

5. RSO REQUESTED SYRIAN G-2 TO ALERT PERSONNEL PROVIDING COVERAGE AT EMBASSY, AID AND USIS NOT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 05270 101449Z

ALLOW LOCAL VEHICLES PARK NEAR US INSTALLATIONS.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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